

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8033
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
USMISSION BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 2418

BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PDIP, CSCE, UR, US
SUBJECT: FURTHER ON SOVIET TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

REF: (A) MOSCOW 2235 (NOTAL), (B) LENINGRAD 502 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. CANADIAN, FRG AND ITALIAN POLCOUNSELOR ACCESS
RECENT SOVIET TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS CHANGES AS INSIGNIFICANT.
BECAUSE OF NATURE OF TRAVEL REGULATIONS IN THEIR COUNTRIES,
MOST NATO POLCOUNSELORS DO NOT BELIEVE THEY CAN OR SHOULD
RECIPROCATATE SOVIET CHANGES. MFA OFFICIAL REPORTS MFA
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PROTOCOL SECTION'S OPINION THAT NOTE-FREE TRAVEL APPLIES
TO NEWLY-OPENED AREAS OF MOSCOW OBLAST AND EXPECTS NEW
MAPS OF SOVIET CLOSED AREAS TO BE READY IN JUNE. END
SUMMARY.

1. NATO POL COUNSELOR'S WEEKLY MEETING FEBRUARY 16
FEATURED DISCUSSION OF NEW SOVIET TRAVEL REGULATIONS

AND APPROPRIATE REACTION TO THEM. BRITISH REP INDICATED HIS COUNTRY IS CONSIDERING RAISING NEW REGULATIONS, AS WELL AS RECENT REFUSAL TO PERMIT BRITISH FIRST SECRETARY TO TRAVEL TO NEWLY-OPENED CITY OF MAGNITOGORSK, AT NATO. U.S. POLCOUNSELOR SUGGESTED THAT NATO GOVERNMENTS CONSIDER ISSUING RECIPROCAL REVISED OPEN AREAS LIST, BUT ALSO RETALIATE IN KIND FOR SOVIET FAILURES TO PERMIT ACCESS TO NEWLY-OPENED AREAS. BRITISH, WEST GERMAN AND ITALIAN REPS RESPONDED THAT THEY WERE NOT IN POSITION TO MAKE PRO FORMA PAPER RELAXATION. ALL THREE COUNTRIES HAVE OPEN AREAS AROUND CAPITAL CITY, DESIGNATED AREAS CLOSED FOR MILITARY REASONS AND BALANCE OF COUNTRY OPEN AFTER APPROPRIATE PRIOR NOTIFICATION. SINCE MILITARY CONSIDERATIONS DICTATE WHICH ARE CLOSED AREAS, THEIR GOVERNMENTS CANNOT OFFER EVEN PRO FORMA ACCESS.

2. ALL PARTICIPANTS IN MEETING FOUND CHANGES IN SOVIET OPEN AREAS INSIGNIFICANT, WITH CANADIAN REP CHARACTERIZING IT AS A PAPER EXERCISE, NET EFFECT OF WHICH IS TO CLOSE CHINESE BORDER. NONE FELT THAT RECIPROCITY WAS REQUIRED. IN RESPONSE TO U.S. POL COUNSELOR'S DISCUSSION OF U.S. PRACTICE OF INCLUDING EMBOFFS ON DELEGATIONS GOING TO CLOSED AREAS, SEVERAL COMMENTED THAT THEY THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE A USEFUL AVENUE FOR THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO PURSUE.

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3. IN RESPONSE TO EARLIER SUGGESTION OF MFA USA DIVISION DEPUTY CHIEF FEDOSEYEV, POLCOUNSELOR WROTE TO MFA PROTOCOL DIVISION DEPUTY CHIEF ANATOLIY BORUNKOV TO INQUIRE ABOUT WHETHER NOTE-FREE TRAVEL APPLIED TO NEWLY-OPENED AREAS OF MOSCOW OBLAST. DURING MEETING WITH POLCOUNSELOR, FEDOSEYEV REMARKED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED MATTER WITH BORUNKOV, WHO HAD TOLD HIM HE "PRESUMED" THAT NOTE-FREE TRAVEL WAS PERMITTED TO NEWLY-OPENED AREAS WITHIN OBLAST. FEDOSEYEV ALSO STATED THAT NEW CLOSED AREA MAPS WERE IN PREPARATION AND SHOULD BE READY IN JUNE.

4. COMMENT: FEDOSEYEV'S REMARKS ON TRAVEL WITHIN MOSCOW OBLAST WERE NOT INTENDED TO BE FORMAL RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION, WHICH WE ASSUME WILL COME FROM PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT. SKEPTICAL RESPONSE OF OUR WESTERN COLLEAGUES TO RECENTLY REVISED OPEN AREAS LIST IS LIKELY TO BE FURTHER STRENGTHENED IF, LIKE BRITISH AND OURSELVES, THEY EXPERIENCE REFUSALS TO PERMIT TRAVEL TO THOSE AREAS. MATLOCK

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